



For Immediate Release

Easton, MD – November 23, 2022

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Talbot County Council Meeting Highlights, Tuesday, November 22, 2022

These highlights only reflect the business items covered from the Council's approved agenda. To view the complete County Council meeting, please visit: Talbot County Meeting Videos - Talbot County, Maryland (www.talbotcountymd.gov).

Proclamation – National Hospice and Palliative Care Month – November 2022 - The Council presented a proclamation to representatives from Talbot Hospice including Chris Chekouras, Director and Molly Kirsch, Clinical Director in recognition of National Hospice and Palliative Care Month - November 2022. The proclamation noted that for more than 40 years, hospice has helped provide comfort and dignity to millions of people, allowing them to spend their final months at home, surrounded by loved ones and encouraged citizens to increase their understanding and awareness of care at the end of life, and to observe the month with appropriate activities and programs. Mr. Chekouras encouraged the public to visit www.talbothospice.org to learn more about their programs including palliative care, hospice care and bereavement support groups which are offered free of charge to the public with no requirement that your loved one to have been a hospice patient.

Presentation of Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for FY2021 to Talbot County Finance Office – Martha Sparks, Finance Director, briefed Council on the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting received by Talbot County for its annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The press release noted, "The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management." Ms. Sparks thanked the Finance Office staff for their work on the comprehensive financial report.

Presentation of Master Plan for Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park – Preston Peper, Director, Parks and Recreation provided an overview of the Master Plan as prepared by A. Morton Thomas & Associates for the Bill Burton Fishing Pier State Park. The Master Plan was prepared in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Talbot County to conduct a public planning process and develop a master

plan for the 25-acre tract of land which is owned and managed by the State of Maryland. Mr. Peper reviewed various elements of the Master Plan which include restrooms, a natural playground, picnic areas, secondary fishing piers that meet ADA requirements, a wetland boardwalk, educational signage and wetland and natural surface trails, a kayak launch and trail, living shoreline, and demonstration areas for natural habitat for flora and fauna.

Consideration of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Doverbrook Apartments Redevelopment Project – Vice President Leshar stated that the County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Sub-committee had met with Don Bibb, Executive Director, Housing Commission of Talbot County, and representatives from Pennrose LLC to review the request for ARPA funds for the Doverbrook apartments redevelopment project in Easton. The sub-committee has recommended the Council consider an allocation of \$250,000 in ARPA funds contingent on the Town of Easton contributing an equal amount (or more). Vice President Leshar stated that the Town of Easton had met on November 21, 2022 and approved the allocation of \$250,000 in Town ARPA funds for the project. Mr. Bibb provided an overview of the project which includes demolishing and replacing all existing 50 residential units and adding an additional 14 new affordable units on Dover Road in Easton. The current Doverbrook apartments are 40 years old. Mr. Bibb reviewed the current challenges with this project including increasing construction costs, higher interest rates as well as opportunities such as his past history working with Pennrose, LLC on renovation projects (Stone Grove Crossing in Salisbury, MD). He stated that Housing Commission of Talbot County has hired a relocation coordinator to assist residents. 50 of the 64 units will be replacement housing for existing residents, converted from public housing assistance to Section 8 via the Streamlined Voluntary Conversion process. Council unanimously approved the allocation of \$250,000 in ARPA funds for the Doverbrook project.

County Manager’s Report –

- Board and Committee Appointments
 - Economic Development Commission – Mr. Stamp requested the appointment of Chris Kleppinger to the Economic Development Commission. The request was unanimously approved by the Council.
 - Planning Commission – Mr. Stamp requested the appointment of Jim Corson to the Planning Commission. The request was approved by a vote of 4-0-1 with Ms. Price abstaining.
- Request from Talbot County Free Library to Utilize FY23 Contingency Funding for Replacement of the Door Keycard Access Control System and Replacement of the Digital Camera Surveillance System at the Talbot County Free Library – Easton Branch – Council unanimously approved the use of \$67,703 in contingency funds to complete two FY22 projects for Talbot County Free Library that were not able to be completed due to supply chain issues. The projects are for the replacement of the door keycard access control system (\$28,428) and replacement of the digital camera surveillance system (\$41,565).
- Request for Funds for Additional Bus Passes for Talbot Senior Centers – Council unanimously approved the allocation of \$2,450 in County funds to Upper Shore Aging, Inc. to purchase an additional 10 bus passes per month through the end of the fiscal year.
- Request for Letter of Support for Tilghman on the Chesapeake Homeowners Association’s Application for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake

- Bay Stewardship Fund Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant – Council unanimously approved the submittal of a Letter of Support for the Tilghman on the Chesapeake Homeowners Association’s application for a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Grant in the sum of \$980,000. No County funds are required.
- Request for Letter of Support for Easton Utilities Grant Application for Connect Maryland: FY23 Network Infrastructure Grant Program – Council unanimously approved the submittal of a Letter of Support for Easton Utilities grant application to the Connect Maryland: FY23 Network Infrastructure Grant Program to further extend broadband in the County. No County funds are required.
 - Request for Letter of Support for Choptank Electric Cooperative and Choptank Fiber, LLC for Connect Maryland: FY23 Network Infrastructure Grant Program - Council unanimously approved the submittal of a Letter of Support for Choptank Electric Cooperative and Choptank Fiber, LLC’s grant application to the Connect Maryland: FY23 Network Infrastructure Grant Program to extend broadband in the County. No County funds are required.
 - Request from Department of Emergency Services to Utilize Emergency Management Performance Grant Funds to Rewrite Talbot County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) – Council unanimously approved the request from the Department of Emergency Services to utilize Emergency Management Performance grant funds to contract with the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security to rewrite the Talbot County Emergency Operations Plan and facilitate a plan exercise. The request is to piggyback on a Prince George’s County contract in the amount of \$100,178. No County funds are required.
 - Request from Department of Public Works – *Recommendation to Award Re-Bid of Bid No. 22-11, REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – REGION II (ST. MICHAELS) SEWER SYSTEM SEWER EXTENSION – (RESOLUTION NO. 235) – PHASE 1 – REPLACEMENT OF ROYAL OAK PUMP STATION NO. 1* – Council unanimously approved the Department of Public Works request to award Bid No. 22-11 to the lowest responsive bidder, Retallack & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$1,536,000. A total of five bids were received. The award will be contingent on review and approval by Maryland Department of the Environment.

As this was the last meeting of the 2018 – 2022 Talbot County Council, gifts were presented to the outgoing Council members with President Callahan thanking each member for their service.

During Council Comments, each Council member provided comments and reflections on their term of office.

The Council’s next legislative meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Bradley Meeting Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



Pictured (left to right)

First row: Chris Chekouras, Director, Talbot Hospice; Council Member Frank Divilio; Molly Kirsch, Clinical Director, Talbot Hospice

Second row: Vice President Pete Leshner; President Chuck Callahan; Council Member Laura Price; Council Member Corey Pack



Pictured (left to right)

First row: Vice President Pete Leshner; Council Member Corey Pack; Council Member Frank Divilio; President Chuck Callahan; Council Member Laura Price